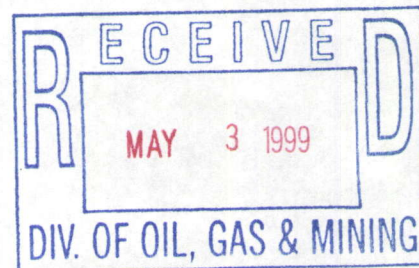




April 30, 1999

Mr. Richard L. Manus, Field Manager  
U.S. Department of the Interior  
Bureau of Land Management  
Price Field Office  
125 South 600 West  
Price, Utah 84501



Re: U.S. Gypsum Company  
Notice of Intention to Commence Small Mining Operations, dated March 1999  
BLM file no. UTU-76643  
UTDOGAM file no. S/015/075

Dear Mr. Manus;

In response to your letter dated April 9, 1999, U.S. Gypsum Company (USGC) is providing the following information to supplement the Notice of Intention to Commence Small Mining Operations, dated March 29, 1999. That submittal and this supplemental information fulfills all information required for the Notice of Disturbance of 5 acres or less, as provided under 40 CFR 3809.1-3 as well as certain information requirements under 40CFR3715. USGC believes that as indicated below, several information items requested by the BLM have already been addressed, or are not specifically required by 40CFR 3809 or 3715. However, USGC is providing additional information in good faith as requested.

With reference to the Plan of Operation (POO) dated June 3, 1998 and received by the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) on June 9, 1998, the POO involved developing a larger quarry site and construction of an new access road, which were located north of Kimball Draw Road in Emery County, Utah. In response to various BLM comments about potential impacts of the 1998 POO, USGC proposed to the BLM the development of a smaller pilot quarry site located south of Kimball Draw Road and also, accessible by using this existing county road. At the recommendation of Mr. Brent Northrup, Project Manager for the BLM in Moab, Utah, USGC agreed to develop this smaller quarry site, which is also not located in any designated or proposed wilderness study area. This alternative quarry site would also serve as a pilot study project in answering various BLM impact comments regarding 1) developing an alternative quarry site, 2) using an existing road for site access, 3) economic viability of extracting and transporting gypsum rock from the San Rafael Swell area, and 4) technical viability of blending high quality gypsum from the quarry test site with gypsum at the existing USGC quarry in Sigurd,

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Utah. (For further information, see POO and Environmental Assessment, dated June 3, 1998 in BLM file UTU-73777).

1. The quarry test site is detailed in the enclosed site sketch. The site is located on section 22.T23S, R8E. At this time, the amount of surface disturbance will not exceed 2.5 acres. The State of Utah is currently holding approximately 2.02 acres of reclaimed, but unreleased exploration project disturbance on BLM lands, pending a final evaluation of revegetation within those acreages.
2. The access road to the quarry test site is Kimball Draw Road, which is an existing county road. Emery County provides all improvement and maintenance work for the Kimball Draw Road. Emery County does not foresee any need to widen Kimball Draw Road due to USGC hauling use. (See enclosed 7.5-minute map.)
3. USGC has provided equipment description and uses at the quarry test site in Section III of the March 29th Notice. In general, USGC will blast, load, and haul gypsum rock from the quarry test site on a periodic schedule, which is currently estimated as (approximately 24 days for every 90 day period).
4. USGC does not intend to locate any temporary or permanent structures on the site. (See site sketch.) During blasting operations, USGC will place temporary road barriers on Kimball Draw Road as well as temporary warning signs which will be removed after blasting activities have ceased. The County may place additional traffic signs along the roadway.
5. USGC has provided a description of reclamation activities at the quarry test site in Sections III and IV of the March 29th Notice in accordance with the requirements of 40 CFR 3809.1-3(d). USGC will complete reclamation of all areas disturbed to the standard described therein and will undertake reasonable measures to prevent unnecessary or undue degradation of the Federal lands during its operations.

In addition, USGC voluntarily provides the following information to assist the BLM in responding to public concerns regarding quarry site activities:

1. The borrow pit impoundment area will not be used for the quarry mining or gypsum hauling operations. (See enclosed 7.5-minute map.)
2. Quarry development within the 2.5-acre area will not alter significantly from year to year due to its periodic use as described above. The length of onsite operations will be dependent upon gypsum rock quality and feasibility of gypsum blending as described above. Reclamation will be implemented as discussed above.

Mr. Richard L. Manus, Field Manager

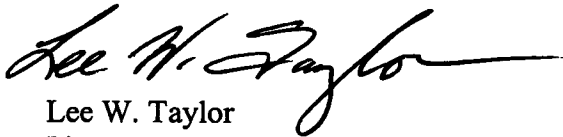
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3. Initial site development work will involve four or five persons onsite for one or two days. Thereafter, one person will be onsite for loading and hauling gypsum rock offsite for each period of onsite activity, as described above.
4. See discussion above regarding public safety measures. There will be no onsite storage of fuels, lubricants, blasting components, or hazardous materials.

In addition to the above, USGC can arrange for an onsite tour of the 2.5 acre quarry test site for BLM, as well as state officials, at their convenience. Please contact Mr. Bryan Tilley, quarry manager, for such arrangements or if you have any further questions at 435-896-2450.

Sincerely,



Lee W. Taylor  
Plant Manager

Enclosure

cc: Anthony A. Gallegos – Utah Dept. of Natural Resources, Division of Oil, Gas & Mining (w/encl.)  
Brent Northrup – BLM/Moab Field Office (w/encl.)  
Dean Nyffler – BLM/Price Field Office (w/encl.)  
Val Payne - Emery County  
Rex Funk – Emery County  
Bryant Anderson – Emery County

# Site Plan of Proposed Test Pit

Truck Turn-Around = 150 ft diameter = 0.41 acres

Access Road = 600 ft x 20 ft = 0.28 acres

Mining Area = 350 ft x 225 ft = 1.81 acres

2.5 Acres Total Disturbance

